

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 CIEP-01 OMB-01 L-03 SS-15 DODE-00 ABF-01 FS-01
/069 W

-----230859 008731 /13

P R 221535Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3122

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 0777

DEPT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, LE

SUBJECT: PL-480 NEGOTIATIONS

1. PRIME MINISTER AL-HOSS PERSONALLY CONDUCTED
OPENING SESSION OF PL-480, TITLE I, NEGOTIATIONS ON
FEB 22 WITH AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE PITCHER, EMBOFF
YELLIN AND MYSELF. I GAVE HIM A DRAFT OF PROPOSED
AGREEMENT AND EXPLAINED ITS GENERAL TERMS. HE
RAISED THREE QUESTIONS:

A. WHAT PORTION, IF ANY, OF THE PROCEEDS OF
PL-480, TITLE I, SALES CAN BE USED TO FINANCE NON-
AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS HOUSING IN RURAL AREAS?

B. CAN THE GOL NEGOTIATE CHANGES IN THE AMOUNT
AND TYPE OF COMMODITIES PROVIDED FOR IN THE DRAFT
AGREEMENT? HOSS NOTED THAT THE PROPOSED DELIVERY
OF 20,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE WAS "VERY GENEROUS,"
SINCE LEBANON'S ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS WERE ONLY
ABOUT 25,000 METRIC TONS (AGATT ESTIMATES THE
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ANNUAL REQUIREMENTS ARE EVEN LESS: 18,000 MT).
HOSS ALSO REMARKED THAT THE IMPORTATION OF
VEGETABLE OIL MIGHT DISRUPT LOCAL PRODUCTION.

C. CAN THE DELIVERY PERIOD BE EXTENDED?
PRIMIN OBSERVED THAT LEBANON WOULD PROBABLY BE
UNABLE TO BEGIN RECEIVING TITLE I WHEAT BEFORE

JULY. FIRST, IT MUST TAKE DELIVERY THIS SUMMER OF 150,000 MT OF WHEAT PURCHASED FROM CANADA. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH BEIRUT PORT'S GRAIN SILO COULD STORE 105,000 TO 110,000 MT OF WHEAT, IT COULD ONLY TAKE IN 2,000 TO 2,500 MT PER DAY BECAUSE OF A BROKEN CONVEYOR SYSTEM THAT THE GOL WOULD NEED AT LEAST SIX MONTHS TO REPLACE. (OTHER LEBANESE OFFICIALS HAVE SAID IT WOULD TAKE EIGHT TO NINE MONTHS TO INSTALL A NEW SYSTEM.)

2. HOSS NOTED THAT THE GOL WOULD NEED ABOUT THREE DAYS BEFORE IT WOULD BE ABLE TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED PL-480 AGREEMENT. WE THEREFORE SET NEXT MEETING FOR 1200 HOURS ON MONDAY, FEB. 28.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING RESPONSE TO HOSS'S QUESTIONS BEFORE THEN.
PARKER

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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